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Newsletter

GRADUATE SCHOOL ★ USDA

February 28, 1958

To the Faculty, Committee Members and
others associated with the Graduate School:

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

March 4 12 noon Faculty Luncheon. Guest Speaker, L. G. Derthick,
U. S. Commissioner of Education.

March 14 5:45 p.m. Faculty Dinner Lecture Seminar, Louis M. Hacker,
Director Emeritus, School of General Studies, Columbia
University.

As you will note in the Calendar of Events, our committee in charge of the faculty lecture seminars has obtained a distinguished speaker, Louis M. Hacker, Director Emeritus of the School of General Studies, Columbia, to open the series, March 14.

You and your wife (or husband) are cordially invited to be the guests of the Graduate School for dinner in the fifth wing cafeteria at 5:45. Dr. Hacker's subject will be, "The Philosophy of Adult Education in the United States Today."

The schedule and speakers for the remainder of the series is as follows:

April 4 - Bernice B. Cronkhite, Dean, Graduate School, and Vice President, Radcliffe College, "What Constitutes a Good Classroom Lecture."

April 18 - Milton Hansen, Training Director, Abbott Laboratories, "How We Learn."

April 25 - Dr. Hansen, "How to Arouse and Direct a Profitable Classroom Discussion."

May 2 - Horace M. Kallen, Dean Emeritus, Graduate Faculty of Political and Social Science, the New School for Social Research, "Education, the Job, and the Man."

May 16 - Samuel P. McCutchen, Professor of Education, New York University, "General Education and Effective Teaching."

We hope you can attend all of these dinner seminars.

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As this issue of the NEWSLETTER goes to press, we can give you only an incomplete picture of registration for the second semester. But it appears that the number of students is 2,506 in comparison with 2,681 in the spring semester of 1957. The number of classes is 140. We cancelled 53 classes because of insufficient enrollment.

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NOTES ON THE LECTURE SERIES

The farmer, like the rest of us, benefits from moves to step up international trade. But it must be bona fide trade -- the actual exchange of goods and services. And programs to increase markets for farm products abroad will succeed to the extent they are based on trade and not on dumping.

This has been the recurrent thought in the lecture series on FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL PROGRAMS, which began January 22, with a talk by John H. Davis of Harvard.

Dr. Davis argued that widespread use of technology will demand a much greater volume of trade. He pointed to the rapid technological changes affecting every phase of life -- social and cultural as well as economic -- in countries around the world.

These changes are saying to us, he said, that family farms must have larger units, more capital, more know-how, greater managerial skill. Where we have bogged down is our failure to recognize that an economy must move forward on a total front. Change demands that man alter his attitudes and customs on every front. It is at this point that we are short on facts on which to base new programs.

Dr. Davis is of the opinion that the world needs all the farmers it can produce and that there are great opportunities for both users and producers. He believes farm support programs have outlived their usefulness. The innovations that deal effectively with present problems of surpluses are more likely to come through new developments in marketing than in legislative action.

O. B. Jesness, for 30 years head of the department of agricultural economics at the University of Minnesota, said there isn't much that can be done about supplies that have accumulated except to learn from our experience.

Dr. Jesness reviewed events and policies of the past that also held lessons for those who are planning foreign farm programs for the future. He recalled that until World War I, this country paid its debts and interests on debts through agricultural products. Through these years, we grew accustomed to having an expert balance. During World War I, the United States became, for the first time, a creditor nation. An uneasy reaction to this new status in world affairs led to the tariff act of 1922 and eventually the Hawley-Smoot tariff act. We

had moved not only in the wrong direction but at a very unfortunate time. This step led to world wide economic nationalism. The reciprocal trade agreements of 1934 were passed as a temporary measure and have been continued. In the opinion of Dr. Jesness they should be continued in the future, for they show friendly nations that this country is not turning its back upon the world.

Dr. Jesness was critical of foreign farm programs that permit selling agricultural products below domestic levels. It is important to recognize, he said, that competing exporters are affected. Properly safeguarded, foreign currencies can be widely used. But measured in terms of cost to the taxpayers, the use of counterpart funds for our agricultural commodities is the same as dollars. The effect is that of state trading. The experience of Nazi Germany shows us what can happen when trade is used for political and military rather than economic ends.

Allan Kline, former president of the American Farm Bureau Federation, noted that more than 70 percent of our agricultural exports in 1957 went out under a Government program. Only \$1.4 billion from foreign trade came through normal channels. He guessed there would have been an additional billion dollars had there been no programs. This would have represented a sizeable cut in total sales and in a period when all sales of agricultural products was less than \$30.4 billion, exports would not have been sufficient to maintain farm prices at current levels.

While Mr. Kline believes that PL480 has paid good returns in helping to accomplish policy objectives, particularly in Spain where it was possible to use wheat to obtain bases, he holds that future plans for agricultural programs must be concerned with making trade more free.

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One of the five gold medals awarded January 27 by President Eisenhower for distinguished civilian service went to a long time teacher in the Graduate School -- Sterling B. Hendricks, chief chemist of USDA's pioneering research laboratory for mineral nutrition of plants.

Dr. Hendricks was selected because of his discoveries in soil clays, phosphate minerals, radioisotopes, plant physiology, and fundamental chemistry. From 1928, when he began work for the Department of Agriculture, until 1956 when the press of other work made it necessary for him to give up teaching, Dr. Hendricks taught a number of courses in the Graduate School. The most recent of these dealt with techniques in research with radioactive isotopes.

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We are pleased to learn that Henry Stevens, chairman of the Graduate School's department of physical sciences, has been named as the focal point of one of the special pioneering research groups established by Administrator B. T. Shaw of the Agricultural Research Service. The group in which Dr. Stevens and his colleagues have done research on agricultural allergins will constitute one of the pioneering research laboratories designed to explore the scientific unknown. According to Dr. Shaw, the scientists in these laboratories have been selected for their high level of curiosity, enthusiasm, imagination, and mental energy.

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The scientist of the future will be required to have a reading knowledge of Russian as well as German and French, according to Wallace R. Brode, president of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and recently named scientific advisor to the Secretary of State.

Dr. Brode stressed the importance of Russian as a language tool for graduate students in his testimony before the House Government Information Subcommittee (the Moss Committee).

National Science Foundation officials are also showing concern, according to a story in the WASHINGTON POST, over the few students and teachers in this country capable of translating the many scientific journals coming out of Russia. They reason that if future teachers -- today's graduate students -- are not allowed to be credited for Russian for their degree, the language barrier will keep on growing.

We think you will be interested to know that between 125 and 150 students are studying Russian in the Graduate School this year. George M. Saharov, who teaches Intermediate, Conversational, and Advanced Russian, has been a member of the Graduate School staff since 1941.

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AMONG OURSELVES

Our good wishes go with John S. Lucas, who retired January 31, as assistant to the director of the office of plant and operations, Agriculture. Mr. Lucas has served since 1937 as a member of the Graduate School committee on office techniques.

When Karl S. Quisenberry retired as Assistant Administrator of the Agricultural Research Service in January, he accepted two temporary assignments in South America, where he will work with the Rockefeller Foundation as technical advisor on wheat research in Chile and with the North Carolina Agricultural Experiment Station on small-grain improvement in Peru. It has been a great pleasure to have Dr. Quisenberry serve as a member of the biological sciences committee in the Graduate School.

Last summer, when Norma Hughes retired from the Department of Agriculture, she promised to continue her association with the Graduate School when she returned from a boat trip around the world. She arrived back in Washington at a most convenient time from our point of view. She was on hand for valuable service early in this month.

Sincerely,

T. Roy Reid
Director

